

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 PM-09 SSO-00 IGA-02 AID-20 SS-15

NSC-10 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

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DSAA/ TS - MR. HOEING

AT - CAPT. BOYD

PM/ MAS - COL FARNHAM

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O 162323 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

SECDEF

USCINCEUR

DEPT OF ARMY

CSAF

SAFUSI WASHDC

MAC SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE (DOOMS)

S E C R E T STATE 070959

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE

REFS: A. KUWAIT 1147

B. KUWAIT 1187

C. DA MESSAGE 102225 Z APRIL

HONG KONG FOR ASST SEC SISCO

1. IN EFFORT TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO GOK' S
PRESENT NEEDS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WISHING TO PLACE
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OUR LONG- TERM ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOK ON SOUNDEST POSSIBLE BASIS, DOD HAS BEEN STRIVING IN PAST WEEK TO LOCATE ITEMS THAT CAN BE OFFERED TO GOK FOR EARLY DELIVERY. DOD ABLE TO OFFER EARLY DELIVERY OF VEHICLES AND HELICOPTERS (NOT GUNSHIPS BUT UTILITY HELICOPTERS ARMED WITHIN CONSTRAINTS OF OUR GULF ARMS POLICY) AND HAS SO AUTHORIZED DOD TEAM LEADER BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR KUWAIT. IN ADDITION, APPROVAL OF SECRETARY RICHARDSON BEING SOUGHT FOR EARLY DELIVERY OF TOW AND M60 A1. IF SECDEF APPROVES, FIVE TOW LAUNCHERS AND A QUANTITY OF MISSILES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT CAN BE DELIVERED IN TWO TO FOUR MONTHS, WITH 40 ADDITIONAL LAUNCHERS TO FOLLOW IN 10 TO 12 MONTHS. INITIAL QUANTITY OF 14 TO 17 M60 A1 TANKS TO EQUIP A COMPANY COULD BE DELIVERED SIX MONTHS AFTER ORDER, WITH ADDITIONAL 14 TO 17 TANKS TO FOLLOW 12 MONTHS AFTER THAT. BALANCE OF 66 TO 72 TANKS COULD FOLLOW FROM NORMAL

PRODUCTION 24 MONTHS AFTER RECEIPT OF ORDER. (YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS REPRESENTS AN EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT ON PART DOD WHICH WILL BE TAKING TANKS OUT OF US ARMY INVENTORY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KUWAITIS.)

2. EVERY EFFORT MADE TO OFFER EARLY DELIVERY OF F-5 E' S, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL A. UNFORTUNATELY, EXISTING PRIORITY COMMITMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES PRECLUDE DIVERTING F-5 E' S TO KUWAIT. EARLIEST AIRCRAFT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, THEREFORE, WOULD BE CY 1976. BECAUSE OF OUR STRONG INTEREST IN SALE OF U. S. AIRCRAFT TO KUWAIT, DOD DEVELOPED ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION OF AN INTERIM GOK AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY CONSISTING OF TWENTY F-8 FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, WITH HOPE THAT GOK WOULD LATER PURCHASE F-5 E OR FUTURE U. S. LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. (F-8 IS NAVY FIGHTER WHICH HAS PROVEN ITSELF IN VIETNAM.) TWENTY F-8 S COULD BE BOUGHT FOR ABOUT \$24.7 MILLION AND BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS. THESE AIRCRAFT PRESENTLY HAVE SIX YEARS OF USEFUL OPERATIONAL LIFE REMAINING. ALTERNATIVELY, TWENTY F-8 S COULD BE LEASED TO GOK, WITH THE AIRCRAFT TO BE RETURNED TO USG AS FOLLOW- ON U. S. AIRCRAFT ARE DELIVERED. UNDER EITHER SALE OR LEASE ARRANGEMENT, F-8 S WOULD BE COMPLETELY OVERHAULED, REFITTED, AND ACCOMPANIED BY SPARE PARTS PACKAGE. LTV WOULD TRAIN THE KUWAITI PILOTS AND

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PROVIDE INITIAL MAINTENANCE SUPPORT IN KUWAIT, WITH KUWAIT

PERSONNEL BEING TRAINED ON PRIORITY BASIS TO TAKE ON MAINTENANCE SUPPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SECDEF APPROVAL ALSO BEING SOUGHT FOR THIS F-8 SOLUTION. (DOD DID NOT HAVE BENEFIT OF REFTEL B WHEN FORWARDING PROPOSAL TO SECDEF).

3. WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE SECDEF DECISION ON TOW, TANKS AND F-8 S.

4. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY REQUESTED ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER GOK WISHES PRESENCE TOW TEAM IN KUWAIT ON APRIL 23 TO ACCOMPLISH TOW TEST FIRINGS. AS INDICATED REF (C), DOD TEAM MEMBER ARRIVING KUWAIT HAS LETTER OF OFFER FOR TEST FIRINGS IN EVENT GOK WISHES HAVE FIRINGS WHILE DOD IN COUNTRY. EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE WE WILL REQUIRE MAC C-141 DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR WHICH OPERATIONAL DETAILS WILL BE FURNISHED ON RECEIPT GOK CONCURRENCE. ROGERS

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